

Reception Class Newsletter



Summer Term 2017

Can you believe it's the Summer term already and soon your child will be moving on from Reception!!.

This newsletter contains useful information about what you should expect from the Summer term.

If at any time you have any questions or you are unsure of anything please ask! Staff are always happy to speak to you if you have any questions or concerns. If we are unable to see you at the beginning of the day please make an appointment at a convenient time.

Our current topic

We have begun our learning this term by looking at Life Cycles and the children have gained valuable experience by having living examples in the classroom.

Our emphasis on practical and play-based activities continues this term. The children are now familiar with the process of selecting materials and planning their work independently. As before, there will be a balance of directed and self-chosen activities.

We like the children to be involved in planning their topic work as far as possible. The aim is to give the children 'ownership' of their learning and to develop their creative and critical thinking skills. The staff know which skills the children need to learn and also when each child is ready to develop these further. The children tell us what they would like to learn about a topic and we take it from there!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

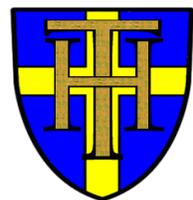
Throughout the term we will be continuing to reinforce with the children the importance of turn taking, sharing, listening, considering others' feelings and following our school rules. Children will also be thinking in particular about how to stay healthy. We will be talking about healthy foods and exercise.

Communication and Language

The children will be developing key skills such as listening and following instructions, sharing ideas and opinions with others and extending their vocabulary by exploring the meaning and sounds of new words. We will provide plenty of opportunities for the children to listen attentively in a range of situations, responding to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. We encourage them to express themselves clearly developing an awareness of the listener and building confidence in

Important reminders

- *Please make sure all items of uniform are clearly named. Items of clothing that are not clearly named will be put into lost property.*
- *Please make sure any money sent into school is in a labeled envelope.*
- *Reading with your child as often as possible is vital for their communication, language and literacy development.*
- *Please make sure your child's reading book is in their book bag and at school every day so a member of staff can read with them.*



Our motto is:

Alta Pete – Aim High

"The primary aim of the school is to help each pupil reach his or her full potential so that they may develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to take full advantage of the opportunities available in their future lives."

speaking in a familiar group. Asking questions, talking about events and following instructions are all an intrinsic part of our daily routines and activities.

Physical Development

The children will be continuing their weekly PE lessons, which take place on a Friday morning and we will continue to explore dance. The children will be encouraged to challenge their gross motor skills by setting up their own 'Obstacle courses' and climbing trees at Forest School.

We will also have discussions about healthy practices like getting enough sleep, washing and cleaning teeth regularly and healthy eating.

Literacy

We greatly appreciate any help you are able to give your child. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of spending time sharing books and reading to your child. Developing a love of books and reading helps your child to become an independent reader.

Please aim to read with your child every night, even if it is just for a few minutes. Once you have read with your child, please sign or comment in their reading record so we know they have read.

The children have phonics lessons each day, they are learning new digraphs and how to use this phonic knowledge to aid both their reading and writing. Please encourage your child to sound out words at home and practice writing them down. The Early Learning Goal for literacy (which is the expected level the children should be at in June) states "They write sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible."

Currently most of the children are reading books in the Pink, Red and Yellow levels as appropriate for them. However the expectation is that should all be reading the Yellow level books leaving Reception. Therefore you may find your child brings home books that are challenging and I hope that you will give your child extra support and praise when working through them. Lots of positive reinforcement will really help them to feel good about their learning!!

Maths

Some of the skills we will be developing over the term include practise saying and using number names in order to 20 and counting up to 20 everyday objects or more. We will also look at 'Symmetry' as an introduction to 'Doubling' and sharing things as a lead in to 'Halving'.

We are working very hard to gain secure knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes and you can help at home by asking about the shapes of different things – tins, boxes, etc. and even their features – faces not sides, vertices not corners, edges not sides.

Understanding the world

Working from the children's interests we will learn about 'Getting from A to B' (Transport), sorting and classifying modes of transport and using their creative skills to make junk models and models at the workbench of their favorites. Other possible topics we might explore this term are 'Things that Creep and Crawl!' (Minibeasts) and 'Who lives on the farm?'

Expressive arts and design

The children will be developing their creative skills by expressing their ideas and feelings through music, art, dance and drama. The children will be building a repertoire of songs and dances and will be given the opportunity to explore musical instruments. The children will have continuous access to a large range of construction and craft materials to aid their learning in this area.

We hope you have found this information helpful.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Reception team – Mrs Anand, Miss Hand and Mrs Pearson

